

Haldeman

Near Marietta Pa. Apl. 20th. 1842.

Dear sir:

I take the liberty to address you to forward for your inspection some of Rafinesque's botanical writings, which you are at liberty to make any use of you think proper, being careful to preserve them in good order, & finally return them to me thro' Mr Dobson 106 Chestnut St Phil.

Some of the articles are pub.^d others perhaps have not yet appeared. You will find here some parts of the Flora Marylandensis, the materials for which appear to have been furnished by Bradbury.

The long lists of plants from different authors prove that he wished to make himself acquainted with them; thus he has even copied part of Schreber's paper on the Fungi!

Of the Western Minerva you will see a specimen, the only one, perhaps, in existence. I have a fragment of another copy. These appear to have been merely proof sheets, & a glance at some of the contents will convince you that his "rivals" did not suppress it without cause. Its publication, by one of its professors, would have damaged the University of Lexington. The selections of "B Franklin" here, & in the Atlantic journal, are by Raf. himself - he is the author also of "The World" poem, the original MS being in my possession. The most important MS work of his, in my possession is "Tellus" or materials towards a history of the Earth & Mankind.

The "school of Flora" was a popular series of botanical articles (illustrated in part by the blocks of the *Med. Flor.*) which appeared in one of the common monthly periodicals, whence they were reprinted in a newspaper. As I have duplicates of the "Florist" you are at liberty to keep the specimen sent!

Requien was a good deal of a quack, & was fond of appearing in the newspapers. He even wrote a very flattering account of himself (or of a third person) which makes him out a great man of many accomplishments. This has a fictitious signature.

Among his papers, I find also an anonymous letter to the *revd* — McCalla respecting a controversy with "Miss Wright" — putting him in possession of certain arguments, & warning him about "priestcraft" etc. He was also in correspondence with some of the Owenites — at another time he wrote a challenge to discuss the nature of Sunday, signed 'A Primitive Christian' — then he occupied himself with verses essays satires etc. etc. — ran into calculations which convinced him that a man may win eventually by games of chance — got a partner to go to France to put his process in execution — and died poor!

In one of his biographies (for I have several) he says some people take him for a mere naturalist!

I cite these matters to show that he was not involved with a thorough devotion to Zoology & Botany, or indeed to Science in general. It appears very odd to see a man devoted to Science, taking great interest in those concerns of the little world which rise & fall month by month & week by week.

I am induced to place these papers under your inspection, because you are the author of a paper on the subj^t in *Silliman's Journal*, I intend finally to present them to the Academy of Nat. Sci. Phil.
S. S. Waldeman

Dr. Ann Gray
Care of Dr. Torrey
New York.